

ABSTRACT

5            Provided are methods of preparing an article, such as an electrochemical cell, in  
which a microporous layer is coated on a temporary carrier substrate and a substrate, such as  
an electrode, is then laminated or contacted to the microporous layer, after or prior to  
removing the temporary carrier substrate from the microporous layer. The microporous layer  
comprises one or more microporous xerogel layers comprising a xerogel material, such as a  
10    zirconium oxide xerogel material. Also provided are articles, such as electrochemical cells  
and separators, prepared by such methods.